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SUPPLEMENT TO
REPORT NO.

INFO 25X1A

1. There was some slight evidence of a rift in the Progressive Writers' Association of Pakistan before the All-Pakistan Progressive Writers' Conference which was held in Lahore on 11, 12, and 13 November 1949. Since that Conference the breach has widened and there is now open hostility between the two factions.
2. One faction is headed by Syed Sajjad Zaheer, underground Communist leader in Pakistan, and Abdullah Malik*, secretary of the Progressive Writers' Association. This group is extremely pro-Soviet, believing that all writers who are not Communists should be expelled from the Association, and admiring the works of Soviet authors. At the Conference they made strong demands for "a free atmosphere for the growth of all languages commonly spoken, used and understood by the people in contiguous homogeneous regions and provinces, such as Sindhi, Bengali, Pushtu, Punjabi and Multani". They vetoed the adoption of Urdu as the national language of Pakistan.
3. The other faction, whose leadership is nebulous, includes A. Hamid, Hamid Quraishi and Ayun Kirmani. This group believes that the Association should include all progressive writers regardless of political belief, that Urdu should be the language of the Association in Pakistan, and that all publications should be in Urdu. Some of the members of this faction, although Communist, do not necessarily believe in Stalinism. They consider the Soviets rather bad writers.

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Comment. The Pakistan Times, 13 November 1949, quoted Malik's address to the Conference as follows: "The Progressive Writers' look upon literature not only as a mirror of life but as a means of bigger and better life. We stand for art, for life, for struggle and for revolution as the corner-stone of our movement. We want to be completely rid of the contradiction that stands like a wedge between our social system and the necessities of our common people. Our ideal is the establishment of a system of society in which every person will have the fullest opportunity to cultivate his aesthetic tastes and bring out his dormant creative faculties. This can be possible only when we succeed in breaking the shackles and fetters of landlordism and jagiradari system and bring into existence a democratic machinery under the direct control of workers and peasants. We must stand by our ideals and refuse to compromise with our enemies nor cooperate with them."

[illegible]

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